



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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APRIL RED MEAT PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA— Commercial red meat production during April 2005 totaled 400,000 pounds. This was down 2 percent from April 2004 and down 14 percent from March 2005 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 539,000 pounds live weight, up 7 percent from April 2004. Cattle slaughter totaled 600 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 980 pounds, was up 49 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 110,000 pounds live weight, down 8 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 500 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight, at 233 pounds, was down 10 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

UNITED STATES- Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.62 billion pounds in April, down 2 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in April 2004.

Beef production, at 1.89 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.56 million head, down 5 percent from April 2004. The average live weight was up 20 pounds from the previous year, at 1,220 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.0 million pounds, 7 percent below April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 61,600 head, down 13 percent from April 2004. The average live weight was 23 pounds above last year, at 353 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.70 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.44 million head, 2 percent below April 2004. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 271 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.5 million pounds, was down 11 percent from April 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 220,800 head, 14 percent below last year. The average live weight was 141 pounds, up 5 pounds from April a year ago.

January to April 2005 commercial red meat production was 14.6 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was down slightly from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 8 percent.

April 2004 contained 22 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

April 2005 contained 21 weekdays (including no holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

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